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WAR AND PROPHECY.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR DEPICTED BY DR. WOODRUFF.

The Final Battle in the Contest Between Despotism and Liberty Likely to be Fought in this Country, and the Overthrow of the Tyrant Gog Predicted by the Prophet Ezekiel May Take Place in the Valley of the Mississippi.

The Rev. Dr. C. S. Woodruff of the Park M. E. Church, preached a sermon Sunday evening that has occasioned much comment. His subject was "The Russo-Japanese War," and the doctor's interpretation of some of the sayings of the prophet Ezekiel, particularly as set forth in the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel, was a startling revelation to his congregation. Dr. Woodruff premised the Scriptural application of his discourse with a description of the force and character of the two contending nations now involved in the war. He spoke in part as follows:

"Russia has been for years a great, growing power and earth-grasper. Her territory is the greatest in extent of any nation on the face of the globe, and she has not been satisfied with her possessions, but has been reaching out for more. The wonder is that she ever sold Alaska to the United States, and, as if to atone for that loss, she has been seeking to get control of Europe and Asia. She stands to-day as representative of great tyrannical government and the divine right of kings. Her ruler is the last Czar which will probably be on the earth.

"She has been steadily encroaching upon Asia, until a crisis has arrived, when either she must be stopped or she will be the dominant power not only in Europe, but in all the world. Her religion is a form of Christianity, the state church, being called the Greek Church, of which the Czar is the nominal head, so that, while in semblance she is not heathen, yet there is much in connection with her form of church usage which is not different from the lowest grades of Roman Catholicism.

"On the other hand, Japan is representative of a different style of national and Christian life. A generation ago she would have been called a 'heathen' nation. She worshipped idols and her civilization was of the crudest kind. Her government was strictly feudal and her form of religion that of paganism. The spirit of her people was warlike and so naturally she has taken on the life of a great warlike nation. It is surprising when we think of it, how suddenly and successfully she has risen during the last generation and she has come to be a power with which the nations have to deal.

"Japan is allied in racial features with China. China has never had the warlike spirit, but if she should be trained to become a nation of soldiers she would be a great and mighty factor, having, as she has, about 400,000,000 people. If she should learn from her cousin, the Japanese, the art of war and rise from her peculiar lethargy and ally herself with Japan, they two could rule all Asia, if not the world.

"It is because of this possibility we must speak of the 'yellow peril,' a possibility of the yellow nations becoming a great ruling factor instead of being, as is now the case, the servants of the English-speaking nations.

"To revert again to the war between Japan and Russia, it is necessary for us to consider the forces arrayed against each other. Japan is a small nation of about 47,000,000 people. Russia has 130,000,000. She exceeds Japan in numbers three to one nearly, so that in the mere power of numbers it seems a very one-sided contest, but thus far Japan has had the advantage in a stronger navy and a better knowledge of its use.

"Russia has confessed herself already to be weak upon the sea; but let us not imagine because her navy is nearly demolished that her resources are ended. She has a great land force which has yet to be dealt with."

Dr. Woodruff sees in the present war an epoch in God's kingdom, and its possibilities thus unfold themselves to his mind: "Russia has been thirsting for world-wide power. It may be that God has raised up this semi-heathen nation of Japan to be a barrier, or at least, a nucleus, around which the other nations shall gather and so smite the old world tyranny its deathblow, and in Russia's fall tyrannical forms of government shall be doomed forever, and the principle of a 'government for the people and by the people' shall not only not have perished from the earth, but shall be everywhere the sentiment of man."

But before this political millennium comes to pass the United States is likely to be the scene of the final bloody throes in the contest between God and Liberty. Dr. Woodruff sees this dreadful possibility prophetically delineated by the son of Buzi and says: "If you will take the pains to read the thirty-

seventh and thirty-eighth chapters of Ezekiel, and some parts of the sixteenth and nineteenth chapters of Revelation, you will find the prophetic narrators picture a great and mighty contest which shall take place against a great chieftain, Gog.

"The final and determining battle is to be fought in the 'Valley of Passengers.' Years ago, various writers on the interpretations of this prophecy, declared that Russia was the Gog that the prophet saw in his vision, and that the 'Valley of Passengers' was the valley of the Mississippi, up and down which go more people than in any other part of the globe.

"May it not be possible that here in this land where God has done so much for the elevation of the race, there shall be fought out at last the great and culminating battle, and that this land should be the scene of that great conflict which was so severe in its loss of life that the prophet tells us in figurative speech that 'it took seven months for the burial of the dead'?"

Dr. Woodruff is imbued with an optimistic judgment with respect to the future influences of the Mongolian socially, politically, and commercially, and deprecates fears of a "yellow peril."

"As cruel powers of government are broken," he says, "and men come to their larger heritage, the power of the Gospel shall have greater sway, and in the breaking up of the kingdoms of the world they shall acknowledge their rightful ownership and become speedily the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. The time may not be far distant when nations, in obedience to our Christ, shall be born in a day, and when the leaves of the Gospel, which has been working in this Mongolian as well as other races shall bring forth a rapid increase of the power of the truth.

"There can be no serious fear of the 'yellow peril' if these Mongolian races are permeated with the spirit of the Gospel, and if they help to break the chains that have bound human beings into serfdom and give them release and enable them to become the sons and daughters of God."

The Elks Fair.

The Elks fair, which will open on Wednesday, March 16, and continue the 17th and 18th, promises to be the most notable event in the line of fairs that has ever been experienced here, both in the quantity and novelty of its attractions. The order of Elks represents a membership that is peculiarly adapted for the conducting of entertainments and public attractions. The members of the order throughout the country, and they are numerous, will lend their aid and exert their influence for the success of the Bloomfield lodge's fair with all the zeal and enthusiasm that they would if the fair was held in Newark. The proceeds of the fair are to go to the charity work of the order, and that is a branch of work that strongly appeals to every Elks. But it is not alone the initiated Elks who are devoting their energies to the success of the fair. There is a numerous and enthusiastic uninitiated auxiliary at work in a large body of ladies who are making and soliciting the articles that will make the sales booths of the fair attractive. Next week further particulars about the fair will be given.

Catch the Fire Fiends.

The police and fire officials should exercise all the diligence and vigilance at their command to ferret out the perpetrators of the incendiary fires that have occurred here of late. It is a severe drain on the financial resources of the fire department to have the firemen and fire apparatus frequently called into use for extinguishing fires and the youths, or whoever it may be that indulges in this costly fun, should be caught if possible and severely punished. Arson is a heinous crime, ranking with murder in the category of offenses, and it is a source of dread and danger to the community to know that there are one or more persons at large who are so lacking in moral character as to commit such serious crimes in a spirit of devilish glee.

Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. William Irwin of Dodd street, East Orange, celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their wedding day Tuesday evening. The event was made the occasion of the gathering of a large number of friends, who were pleasantly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Irwin. John Kaufman furnished music, and dancing was enjoyed. A fine collation was served by the hostess. Mr. and Mrs. Irwin were the recipients of numerous presents. Guests were present from this town, East Orange, New York and Brooklyn.

PROTECT your securities and valuable papers against **FIRE** and **BURGLARS** by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vaults of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at \$4.00 per year and upwards.—Advt.

LOCAL POLITICS.

Prospect of a Five Weeks' Lively Political Campaign—The Candidates Likely to be Legion Politicians Getting Ready to use the Franchise Knife—The Citizens Ticket Party Getting Ready for Action.

The spring election takes place on Tuesday, April 12, and it appears now almost certain that as the State Legislature is not likely to enact any legislation that will interfere with the holding of the election the local politicians are beginning to plan for a lively campaign for the next five weeks.

The main feature of the campaign will be the official and unofficial introduction of candidates for the positions of Councilmen. There will be a legion of names proposed and some people will be kept busy denying that they aspire to public office.

In the Third Ward alone, where a Ward Councilman is to be elected, it is said that there are no less than seven names of people regarded as eligible candidates under consideration by the several elements that aim to control the First District of that ward, for it is from the First District that the Republican candidate for Councilman will be chosen. The First District of the First Ward will also have the pleasure of naming a Republican candidate for Ward Councilman, and as yet only four possible candidates have been named. In the Second Ward there appears to be a dearth of aspirants for the Republican nomination or Councilman, and as yet only one name has been mentioned in connection with the nomination.

For the position of Councilman-at-Large several names are prominently brought forward in connection with the Republican nomination for the position. There appears to be an impression that a First Ward man will be chosen to head the ticket.

The Republican Town Convention will be held in the last week in March and will consist of eighty-five delegates, apportioned as follows: First Ward—First District, sixteen; Second District, sixteen; Second Ward, twenty; Third Ward—First District, sixteen; Second District, sixteen. The apportionment of delegates allows of some great combinations, such as took place last year, when the Second and Third Wards got together and captured two of the principal nominations contested for.

There will of course be a Citizens' ticket in the field in the spring and it is rumored that the candidate on that ticket from the First District of the Third Ward is already on deck with colors flying. There is a likelihood of a complete Citizens' ticket in the field and possibly some third tickets by independents.

A desire is expressed by some people, that owing to the nearness of the end of the current fiscal year, the Town Council take no action towards issuing bonds for fire houses and water plant purchase until after the spring election.

The purpose of seeking this delay is that the proposed bond issues may figure as issues in the election as questions of public policy.

If such a course was taken the result might be the choosing of Councilmen thoroughly in accord with the policy of the present Council.

The Council is at present divided in opinion on certain matters of policy, and it is argued that it would be better to postpone definite action until after election, with the hope that the new Council might be more harmonious accord with respect to the question of policy that requires large bond issues for their fulfillment.

The fact should not be lost sight of that the Councilmen to be elected in the spring constitute a majority.

Baseball.

At Dominican Hall, Newark, Monday afternoon, the Dominican third team met and defeated the Sacred Hearts of this town by a score of 26 to 6. The feature of the game was the playing of Conlan and Purdy for the Dominicans, and Cavanaugh for the Sacred Hearts. The line-up of the teams was as follows:

| Dominican | Sacred Heart |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| E. Conlan | right forward |
| J. Conlan | left forward |
| Purdy | center |
| Wheeler | right guard |
| Kearney | left guard |
| Before—Gaffney of Dominicans. | J. Higgins |

Thistleton-Heckel.

A quiet wedding took place at the home of Mrs. E. E. Heckel in Harrison street Tuesday night, when her daughter Miss Millie Heckel, and Rev. Alfred Thistleton, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Schenectady, N. Y., were married by Rev. Peterson of New York. Only the immediate relatives of both families were present. Mr. and Mrs. Thistleton will reside in Schenectady upon their return from a trip.

Park M. E. Church.

Dr. C. S. Woodruff will preach at the Park M. E. Church at both services on Sunday. The morning topic will be "The Anointing that Abides," and in the evening "The Branch that Abides in the Vine."

FIRE AND BURGLARY.

Safe in Weismann's Butcher Shop Blown Open With Dynamite—Fire Followed the Explosion and Destroyed the Building—Other Alarms of Fire that Have Made a Busy Week for the Firemen.

Special Policeman John Blum was patrolling his Second Ward beat Saturday night and Sunday morning, and was on Broad street near Maple street about half-past four Sunday morning when he heard a noise in the direction of Peter Weismann's butcher store. He listened intently, and finally concluded that it was in the Bloomfield Coal and Supply Company's yard and was caused by sliding coal. A few minutes afterward the noise was repeated, and the policeman walked back to the butcher shop and looked around there, but everything appeared to be quiet and in order.

Shortly after half-past five residents in the vicinity of Broad and Maple streets were awakened from sleep by the loud report of an explosion, and a few moments afterward the butcher shop was in a blaze. Mr. Weismann, who is a fireman, and a member of Excelsior Hose Company, had not long returned from a fire in Montgomery street when he was aroused again by cries of fire, and was informed that his own store was ablaze. In the excitement that ensued some time was lost in sending in an alarm. The firemen responded quickly to the alarm, but the small frame structure was speedily demolished by the flames.

After the fire had subsided Chief Engineer Higgins began an investigation and found that the door of the iron safe in the store had been blown from its hinges, and the noise that Policeman Blum heard was that made by thieves in the store, and the explosion that startled the neighborhood was that of dynamite used in blowing open the safe.

Chief of Police Collins is of the opinion that the burglarious work was that of the same gang that blew open the safe in Spear's turf goods factory in Liberty street, and that the same methods were followed. The fire that followed is attributed to a candle used by the burglars lighting some wrapping paper near the safe. According to Mr. Weismann's statement the burglars went to much unnecessary trouble in blowing open the safe as it was not locked.

On Sunday morning, previous to the Weismann fire, the fire department was called out for a fire in John Young's house near the corner of Liberty and Spruce streets. A woman in the house undertook to stimulate a low fire in the stove with kerosene oil, and the burst of flames which followed ignited some bed clothing near by. A man who was in the house threw the burning bedding out of the window and extinguished the flames without the aid of the firemen.

Late Tuesday night the fire department was again called out for a fire in Berkeley avenue, near the Fairview School, when a barn on premises owned by Alfred H. Edgerley was destroyed by fire. The building was valued at about \$200, and as it had not been used in some time there is little doubt but what it was an incendiary fire. The same night that Mr. Edgerley's barn was destroyed an attempt was made to set fire to another barn in the same neighborhood, but was discovered and prevented. The facts in the case were reported to the police, and the officials of the fire department together with the police are keeping a watch on some suspected parties in parts of the town in which several incendiary fires have occurred of late.

On Wednesday night the fire department was called out for the fourth time this week for an alarm of fire from Brookside place. The blaze was in William Burnett's barn, and the call for the firemen was unnecessary, as the blaze was extinguished before the firemen arrived.

In the numerous alarms of the past week the prompt response of the fire companies has been noticeable, and in cases where water has been used a remarkably good pressure has been shown.

Edward Morris.

Edward Morris, fifty-eight years old, son of the late Louis Morris of this town, died in New York Sunday after a long illness of brain trouble. He is survived by one son. The remains were brought here for burial. Mr. Morris was in the employ of the Royal Baking Powder Company. He was a druggist, and was in the employ of Dr. W. H. White when the latter conducted the drugstore now owned by W. W. Keyler.

Mountainside Hospital.

Contributors to the Mountainside Hospital during the month of February were: Mrs. Dwight P. Beach, Mrs. J. G. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Bell, Mrs. J. G. Broughton, Dr. W. R. Broughton, Mrs. Henry P. Dodd, Mrs. J. W. Dunham, Mrs. Henry W. Crane, Mrs. Thomas Kedzie, Mrs. J. Ward Stafford, Miss Carrie Stafford, Mr. John Van Winkle, Mrs. John Van Winkle.

Important to Commuters.

Under arrangements between the Erie Railroad and the New York and New Jersey Railroad it is expected that contracts will soon be entered into by which the Erie will secure the right to send its passengers through the tunnel under the Hudson river, which the New York and New Jersey Railroad Company has nearly completed. The arrangement will be simply in the form of a traffic agreement.

The tunnel begins on the Jersey side at a point adjoining the terminal of the Lackawanna. It ends on the Manhattan side at Morton and Christopher streets, where passengers can be transferred to the Metropolitan railway surface lines or the Ninth avenue elevated. The tracks of the tunnel company will be extended into the Erie terminal so that passengers of the railroad, without leaving the Erie station, can enter cars bound through the tunnel.

The traffic agreement is arranged on the basis of a percentage which the Erie will pay to the tunnel company for the transportation of its through passengers. The tickets issued by the railroad will carry coupons which will be accepted on the tunnel trolley cars. The passengers will have the option, of course, of using the ferryboats if they prefer.

The arrangement for the transfer of passengers will go into effect as soon as the tunnel, which is now nearing the Manhattan shore, is completed. It is also understood that the Lackawanna will make a similar arrangement.—New York Sun.

Democratic Reorganization.

The Essex County Democratic Committee is to be reorganized. A motion to that effect was carried at a meeting of the county organization Tuesday night. The particular lines that will be followed in the work of reorganization has not yet been determined upon and will form the subject of discussion at future meetings and conferences.

Edward Hart of East Orange, Democratic member of the County Board of Registry and Elections, is Chairman of the Committee on Reorganization, and it is Mr. Hart's intention in so far as possible to give every Democrat of prominence and influence in the county an opportunity to express his views, either by speech or letter, on the important matter of reorganization. Mr. Hart's plan of obtaining a wide and general expression of opinion in this matter of party reform will commend itself to the majority of party adherents and will have a beneficial effect in drawing Democrats together and awakening an interest in party affairs.

Dr. W. F. Harrison of this town was present at Tuesday night's meeting.

A Reception.

The chief social event in this town during the current season took place Tuesday night when Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Oakes gave a reception at their home in Belleville avenue. The house was thronged with guests during the evening and it was estimated that between 450 and 500 people were present. In addition to the large number of Mr. and Mrs. Oakes' friends in town, many out of town people were among the guests, and the Oranges, Glen Ridge, Montclair, Newark, New York and Brooklyn were represented, together with a number of people from distant points.

The affair was a very pleasant one and all present spent an enjoyable evening. The house was beautifully decorated with plants and Southern Ivy by Raskbach, the florist. Isler's orchestra furnished the music and Caterer Pursell of Newark the refreshments.

Mrs. Oakes wore a gown of gray crepe-de-chine, trimmed with point lace. Miss Oakes was gowned in white silk, trimmed with white lace. The conservatories were thrown open and an orchestra was hidden in the hall by palms and potted plants.

Base Ball.

The members of the Watseong Baseball Club held a meeting Tuesday night and discussed plans for the ensuing season. Archie Dalley was re-elected Manager and Captain of the club, Craig Dalley Secretary, and Frank L. Ferguson Treasurer. From present indications the club will comprise the same players as last year.

F. L. Fisher has been elected manager of the North End Baseball Club and is making arrangements for the coming season. The club has secured grounds on the Francisco property, Franklin avenue, and Manager Fisher is ready to make dates for games with all amateur clubs whose players are twenty years of age and upwards.

Pool players were out in force Tuesday night to see the handicap pool match between Washington Lee, the colored champion pool player of the town, and Fred Jenkins. The match took place in Brady's adolph pool room, and was won by Jenkins who scored 100 points by the time the champion reached 83.

LINDEN AVENUE.

THE IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT CASE AGAIN BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

Councilman Moore's Plan for a Final Determination of the Case Defeated. Referred Back to the Board of Assessors for a New Report—Charles W. Powers Maintains that Engineer Francisco's Findings Coincide with the Contentions of the Property Owners.

The Linden avenue improvement and assessment cases were the only subjects discussed at the adjourned meeting of the Council Tuesday night. Mr. Moore of the Sidewalk Committee, pursuant to a resolution of the Council adopted September 23, 1903, referring the assessments levied in the Linden avenue improvement case to the Sidewalk Committee for investigation and report, submitted an exhaustive report upon that subject, which was in part as follows:

"Your committee has held a number of conferences and meetings with parties interested in the improvement and assessments, and owing to the claims of certain objectors that serious overcharges had been made for work done as the result of alleged carelessness on the part of the Town Engineer in charge of the improvement, your committee deemed it expedient to have measurements given by the engineer and appearing in the report of the Board of Assessors verified as far as possible. The services of J. H. Francisco of Belleville, an engineer of unquestioned standing, were secured, and the results of his measurements are herewith submitted. The several items of work charged for are the laying and setting of curb, flag-walk, cobble gutters, grading, and the removal of trees and lamp posts.

"In the matter of curbing, the total length charged by the contractor upon measurements furnished by the Town Engineer, is 2,927. The total length of curb found by Mr. Francisco is 2,925.10 feet, or 1.90-100 feet less than charged for—a difference so slight as to require no notice. The only formal objection, the report says, 'filed with the town authorities pursuant to notice was that of Richard T. Cadmus, who claims that a section of curb five feet long was reset in front of his property, instead of being all new, as charged against him, and representing in cost \$1.35, which amount should be allowed and deducted from the assessment of Mr. Cadmus.

"Objection was raised at the beginning of these proceedings," the report says, "by reason of the fact that fourteen round corners of curb were charged for, whereas only thirteen now appear. This is explained by the fact that after a round corner had been set at the south-west corner of Linden and Ashland avenues the direction of the gutters and culverts necessitated a change, and pursuant to instructions from members of the Council the round corner was removed and an angular corner was set in its stead, and the additional cost of the alteration was offset against the charge for a round corner, though no mention of the fact was made in the bill.

"In the matter of flag-walk the Town Engineer reported and the contractor was paid for 8,536 square feet of new walk, and for 404 square feet of flag-walk relaid, aggregating 8,940 square feet. Mr. Francisco reports that he found along the line of the improvement a total of 11,630.62 square feet of flag-walk. No objections have been made, regard to flagging by any interested party, except William H. Swain, who is charged in the report of the assessors with the cost of relaying his full frontage of 50 feet as 200 square feet of walk, amounting to \$6. Mr. Swain's walk was laid new in 1900, the year preceding the general improvement, and both he and his wife aver that they were about the premises constantly during the general improvement, and that the flag-walk was not relaid, and that the charge and assessment are therefore erroneous. The total number of square feet of flag-walk assessed as relaid in front of private premises is 525.60 square feet, and the total charge in the contractor's bill is 404 square feet. Your committee therefore believes that the benefit of any doubt should be given to the objector, and that this charge should be deducted from Mr. Swain's assessment.

"In the matter of cobble gutters, the Town Engineer reported and the contractor has been paid for 880 square yards of new gutter and 512 square yards relaid, aggregating 1,392 square yards. Mr. Francisco reports that he finds a total of 1,391.68 square yards, making a difference of .32 square yards. This difference is accounted for by the engineer and contractor by the fact that several sections of the gutter were relaid twice, and in one instance where changes were ordered by the town officials the gutter was laid three times and charged for accordingly.

"Some of the parties directly interested in the improvement," the report says, "and the bill rendered by the contractor, is as follows:—

Continued on page 2.